FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 2/11/69

Rev. JAMES M. LAWSON, JR., Pastor, Centenary Methodist Church, 584 East McLemore Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he has no actual evidence of a conspiracy in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING; however, he feels that certain occurrences around the time of the murder may have some significance.

Rev. LAWSON said that on about April 2 or April 3, 1968, a Negro fireman, FLOYD E. NEWSUM, was transferred from the firestation near the Lorraine Motel to another station that was already fully manned. He also said that another Negro fireman, name unknown, was transferred from that same station to another station on either Tuesday or Wednesday night before KING was murdered on Thursday afternoon. He said this second fireman was transferred in the middle of his shift and was transferred "out of rotation".

Rev. LAWSON explained "out of rotation" as follows:

When a fireman is assigned to a piece of equipment he remains in that assignment until all the men already assigned to it have been transferred. In other words, the last man assigned is the last man transferred.

Rev. LAWSON stated also that a Negro police officer, Detective E. E. REDDITT, who had been assigned to the same fire station to provide protection for Dr. KING, had been removed from the station sometime prior to the murder.

Rev. LAWSON stated he has made no attempt to verify any of this information except for his interview with FLOYD NEWSUM.

On 2/11/69 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 44-1987

by SA JOE C. HESTER &
SA ROBERT F. BOYLE:JCH:cjs Date dictated 2/11/69

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